(c) the steps taken/to be taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Considering the potential of fishing, the Government has implemented programmes under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes for (i) Development of post harvest infrastructure (ii) Motorization of traditional craft (iii) Diversification of fishing (iv) Fishermen Development Rebate on HSD oil used by fishing vessels of below 20m length (v) Introduction of intermediate craft (vi) Enhancing safety of fishermen at sea and (vii) Development of fish processing and marketing infrastructure. Assistance is also given for improving pre-processing and processing infrastructure and value addition of fish exported.

So far six major fishing harbours, 40 minor fishing harbours and 151 fish landing centres have been completed and put to use, 46336 traditional craft motorised and six trawlers converted into long lining. Letter of permission has also been issued to 21 Indian companies for operating resource specific vessels in the Indian EEZ.

Setting up of a Veterinary University in Andhra Pradesh

1208. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a proposal from Government of Andhra Pradesh to set up a Veterinary University;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to improve the education in the dairying sector to get the best results; and

(d) the steps proposed to encourage establishment of academic institutions which would improve the dairying sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University is already functioning at Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) A proejct namely Experiential Learning-hands-on-training on the various subjects of agriculture, animal husbandary and dairying has been launched during 2006-07.

(d) Agricultural education being a State subject, establishment of academic institutions falls within the pruview of the concerned State Governments.

Upliftment of rural children and women through KVIC

1209. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Khadi and Village Industries Commission has prepared any scheme to set up small industries for rural women alongwith creation of market for their products with the involvement of Ministry of Women and Child Development so as to improve upon the social and economic conditions of rural children and women living below poverty line;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the status of this scheme, as on date?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Government (in the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries) has been implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), a credit-linked subsidy programme, through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), throughout the country, to provide employment opportunities by assisting individual entrepreneurs/ self help groups, including women, in rural areas and small towns with population upto 20,000. Under REGP, women entrepreneurs are entitled to a higher rate of margin money assistance at the rate of 30 per cent as compared to 25 per cent for the male entrepreneurs in the general category. Convergence has been established by KVIC with Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD). Financial assistance is also provided under REGP for various backward forward linkages such as Entrepreneurship Development Programme, marketing, organising awareness camps, etc. KVIC has also entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the MWCD, for the benefit of women entrepreneurs under REGP. As per MoU, KVIC and MWCD have agreed to work together for generating employment opportunities for rural women, through REGP and also marketing their products. In addition, KVIC has also established convergence with various other organisations such as Army Wives Welfare Association, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathana and Confederation of Indian